

BUSINESS & LABOREXHIBIT NO. 4
DATE 1-12-09
BILL NO. SB 84**Murdo, Patricia**

From: Patti [dpjacques1@bresnan.net]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2009 8:07 AM
To: Murdo, Patricia
Cc: Keim, Linda
Subject: SB 84 - public testimony
Importance: High

Hello Pat,

Could you please pass this along to the Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee as my public testimony.

Mr. Chairman, and Committee Members,

I think this is a wonderful opportunity for inmates and residents of correctional facilities to be able to get vocational educational training through the Montana Correctional Enterprise program.

I would like you to included in this bill under Sec 4 - 53-30-132 Inmate participation and status in prison work program - at least a quarter good-time in reducing sentencing for inmates/residents participating in this program. This program will show that a correctional inmate/resident wants to better him or herself through vocational education and work programs, give them a sense of accomplishment, self-esteem, and an opportunity to have a skill when leaving these facilities.

By giving them the opportunity for vocational education/work program, and giving them a reduced sentence by giving the inmate/resident the opportunity to get out earlier, it will reduce the projected overcrowded population in our correctional facilities throughout the State, hopefully less recidivism back into the correctional system, thus eliminating the expansion of correctional facilities, thus reducing the State General Fund appropriations to expand these facilities.

If you really want to change the system, then you have to change what was being done before, if not you will get the same results.

Person commits crime, sent to prison, prerelease, gets sent to jail, back to Start, back to prerelease, back to jail, back to prison and the cycle continues.

Please vote yes for SB 84 with modification. Thank you.

Patti Jacques
1957 University St
Helena MT 59601
406-431-3245
dpjacques1@bresnan.net

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